



ESB Asset Development UK Limited

# Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 3)

Appendix 6.6 – Viewpoint Assessment

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**RSK**

## RSK GENERAL NOTES

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# 1 APPENDIX 6.5 – VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the Proposed Development from the 17 viewpoints that were identified in **Appendix 6.4** as having the potential to experience significant effects.
- 1.1.2 For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the Proposed Development which would be visible from that viewpoint. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, or topography would affect the visibility of the turbines, as well as giving a comment on the sensitivity of the viewpoint, the magnitude of change experienced and the significance of visual impacts. Finally, a judgement is provided regarding whether the overall effect for each viewpoint is considered to be significant or not in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.1.3 A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect is given in Table 1 of this Appendix and is replicated at **Table 6.7** of Chapter 6 within the EIA Report. Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint. Each viewpoint is illustrated in **Volume 2** of the EIA Report.
- 1.1.4 The approach and methodology to the assessment of the effects of visible aviation lighting on landscape character and visual amenity is set out in **Appendix 6.10**.

## 2 VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Viewpoint 1 - A6088, Chesters

Baseline				
Grid reference	362395	610476	Elevation (m AOD)	200 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T8	Direction to Proposed Development		South
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 11(i) Grassland with Hills – Bonchester/ Dunion
Designations	At southern edge of Teviot Valleys Special Landscape Area (SLA)		Receptor	Residential Road users
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated at the southern edge of the settlement of Chesters alongside the A6088 Carter Bar to Hawick Road. It allows open views in a southerly direction over the gently rolling, pastoral farmland that comprises grazing fields interspersed with small shelterbelt woodland blocks and dotted with occasional farms situated along the road and nestled within the rolling farmland. Views extend towards the ridge of high ground that provides the backdrop to the view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by residents in Chesters and road users travelling along the A6088.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities and it is not a promoted tourist route. It is not recognised for its scenic views, although it is acknowledged that pleasant views are available across the surrounding landscape. Its value is assessed as low medium.	Residents in this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views from the settlement and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Road users		Users of main routes are generally considered to be less susceptible, although in this instance this is tempered slightly due to its rural valley location. Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.		Low medium

### Magnitude of Change during daylight hours

The blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all 13 turbines would be visible from the viewpoint. They would be positioned beyond the gently rolling and smooth rounded landform that provides the intermediate background to the view, with turbines T1 to T4 backclothed against the ridge of high ground that forms the more distant backdrop to southerly views. This change would be experienced at relatively close distance (c. 3.3 km) and would occur at a broadly perpendicular angle to the orientation of the route, with the full lateral extent of the array visible.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium to large lateral extent of the view, setback beyond the intermediate landform and as such do not cross into the foreground landscape that provides the landscape setting to the settlement.

The turbines introduce large scale elements into the view, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the upland landscape that is set beyond the foreground and they do not loom over the foreground landscape nearer to the settlement.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces a high magnitude of change.

### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots. The lights of turbines T1 and T3 would be seen against the upland horizon in the left-hand part of the view, while the remaining turbine lights (Turbines T8, T9, T11 and T12) would appear within the right-hand part of the view, above the gently rolling landform.

The aviation lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present, apart from the occasional lights of vehicles travelling along the A6088.

This would result in a medium high magnitude of change.

### Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a **moderate effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **minor moderate** effect during the hours of darkness that is assessed as **not significant**.

Residential receptors would experience a **major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate major** effect during the hours of darkness that is also considered **significant**.

## 2.2 Viewpoint 2 - A6088, Southdean

Baseline				
Grid reference	363250	609112	Elevation (m AOD)	200 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T7	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 5i(ii) Southern Uplands Forest Covered Wauchope/ Newcastleton
Designations	None		Receptor	Residential Road users
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	4	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated alongside the A6088 at Southdean. The viewpoint is located outside the entrance to Merryoaks Farm and allows views in a southerly direction over the tops of the nearby buildings, the narrow, tree-lined course of Carter Burn to the rolling fields beyond. Fields comprise improved pasture used for grazing, with fields bordered by hedgerows. Dykeraw Farmhouse and Dykeraw Cottage are visible on top of the rounded landform, partly surrounded by mature deciduous trees.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by residents at Southdean and road users travelling along the A6088.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities and it is not a promoted tourist route. It is not recognised for its scenic views, although it is acknowledged that pleasant views are available across the surrounding landscape. Its value is assessed as low medium.	Residents in this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the landscape where there are consented or operational wind farms.		High
Road users		Users of main routes are generally considered to be less susceptible, although in this instance this is tempered slightly due to its rural valley location. Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.		Low medium
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
Parts of all 13 turbines would be visible from the viewpoint, with views generally limited to the upper parts of towers, hubs and blades. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, up to 9 hubs (Turbines T1-4, T7-10 and T13) would be visible.				

The turbines would be positioned beyond the smooth rounded landform that provides the background to the view. This change would be experienced at close proximity (c. 2.2 km) and would occur at a broadly perpendicular angle to the orientation of the route, with the full lateral extent of the array visible.

The proposed turbines occupy a large lateral extent of the view, setback beyond the rounded landform, which prevents the turbines from crossing over into the smaller-scale, foreground valley landscape.

The turbines introduce large scale elements into the view, but they are largely screened from view by the landform to the south, which restricts views of some of the turbines.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces a medium high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible in theory at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots. The hub of turbine T1 would be screened by intervening vegetation on the rounded landform in the left-hand part of the view.

The hubs of turbines T11 and T12 would be screened by landform while the remaining lit turbines (Turbines 8 and 9) would appear within the right-hand part of the view, above the rounded southern valley side and their lights would be experienced above the horizon of the view.

Lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present, apart from the occasional lights of vehicles travelling along the A6088.

This would result in a low medium magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a **moderate effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **minor moderate** effect during the hours of darkness that is assessed as **not significant**.

Residential receptors would experience a **moderate major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate effect** during the hours of darkness that is considered **not significant**.



## 2.3 Viewpoint 3 – Fort north-east of Southdean

Baseline				
Grid reference	363496	609388	Elevation (m AOD)	292 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T7	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 5i(ii) Southern Uplands Forest Covered Wauchope/ Newcastleton
Designations	None		Receptor	Walkers
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated on the hill to the north of Southdean in the location of the prehistoric fort and settlement, close to the trig point. Due to the viewpoint's elevated location, it allows extensive, panoramic views in all directions. The view allows an appreciation of the large scale of the landscape, with its gently undulating form and the extensive forested plateau, where the Proposed Development is located.</p> <p>At lower elevation, rectangular, managed grazing fields bordered by hedgerows are fringed by forest blocks, with areas that have been felled. Extensive forestry sweeps through the middleground, backed by the more distant ridgeline that forms the backdrop to the view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by walkers and visitors to this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers/ Visitors	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is designated for its cultural heritage importance and does allow panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. Its value is assessed as medium.	Walkers and visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		Medium high
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, the hubs and blades of all turbines would be visible, along with the majority of the extent of their towers. Some turbine access tracks, crane hardstandings and borrow pits would also be visible where areas of felled forest allow views.</p> <p>The turbines would be positioned beyond the gently rolling and smooth rounded landform that extends through the middleground, with turbines T1 to T4 backclothed against the ridge of high ground that forms the more distant backdrop to southerly views. This change would be experienced at relatively close distance (c. 3.4 km) with the full lateral extent of the array visible.</p>				

The proposed turbines introduce large, new elements into the view that occupy a medium to large lateral extent. They are positioned within the forest plantation that extends through the middleground and as such do not cross over into the smaller scale, agricultural landscape that extends through the valley landscape below.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces a high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots, that would be seen in relatively close proximity. The lights of turbines 1 and 3 would appear slightly more prominent due to their closer proximity to the viewpoint and would be seen against the background landform.

The lights of turbines T8, T9, T11 and T12 would appear slightly smaller due to their position in the right-hand part of the grouping and further from the viewpoint. These lights would be seen above the dark sky horizon.

Lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present, apart from the lights of properties in the valley.

This would result in a medium high magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate major** effect during the hours of darkness that is also considered **significant**.

## 2.4 Viewpoint 4 – A6088, Western approach to Chesters

Baseline				
Grid reference	361634	610634	Elevation (m AOD)	204 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T8	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 11(i) Grassland with Hills – Bonchester/ Dunion
Designations	At southern edge of Teviot Valleys SLA		Receptor	Residential Road users
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located adjacent to the A6088 as the road descends eastwards towards Chesters. It allows open views in a southerly direction over a relatively wide, low-lying plain, towards the gently rolling landform in the middle ground that restricts longer range views. Land cover comprises pastoral farmland with rectangular fields used for grazing and bordered by fencing and hedges. Shelterbelts wrap over the rolling landform and extend around the edge of the hills. Towards the left-hand edge, views extend across the gently rolling topography in the middleground to the more distant ridge of high ground that provides the backdrop to the view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by residents and road users.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities and it is not a promoted tourist route. It is not recognised for its scenic views, although it is acknowledged that pleasant views are available across the surrounding landscape. Its value is assessed as low medium.	Residents in this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views across the intervening farmland and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Road users		Users of main routes are generally considered to be less susceptible, although in this instance this is tempered slightly due to its rural location. Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.		Low medium

### Magnitude of Change during daylight hours

All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, views are mainly restricted to the upper parts of turbine towers, hubs and blades, with the intervening rolling landform screening the lower parts of towers and all other associated infrastructure from view.

The turbines would be positioned through the central part of the view, beyond the farmed foreground landscape. The hubs and towers of turbines T1 to T7 would be backclothed against the distant high ground that forms the backdrop to the view, while the upper parts of towers, hubs and blades of the remaining turbines would appear above the skyline.

The proposed turbines occupy a large lateral extent of the view, setback beyond the farmed valley landscape, which provides a degree of separation from the immediate foreground landscape. The turbines introduce large scale elements into the view, within a part of the landscape where there is no other similar development.

During daylight hours this introduces a high magnitude of change.

### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots. The lights of turbines T1 and T3 would be seen against the upland horizon in the left-hand part of the view, while the remaining lit turbines (Turbines T8, T9, T11 and T12) would appear within the right-hand part of the view, above the dark sky horizon.

Lit turbines would be positioned across the full lateral extent of the group, when viewed from this location. Lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present, apart from the occasional lights of vehicles travelling along the A6088 and lights associated with properties on the northern edge of the road.

This would result in a medium high magnitude of change.

### Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a **moderate effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **minor moderate effect** during the hours of darkness that is assessed as **not significant**.

Residential receptors would experience a **major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate major effect** during the hours of darkness that is considered **significant**.

## 2.5 Viewpoint 5 – Bonchester Hill

Baseline				
Grid reference	359471	611790	Elevation (m AOD)	319 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T9	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 11(i) Grassland with Hills – Bonchester/ Dunion
Designations	Teviot Valleys SLA		Receptor	Walkers
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible	T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12	
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated at the summit of Bonchester Hill, which is a locally important landmark hill located near to Bonchester Bridge and approximately 5 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's elevated location, it allows extensive, panoramic views in all directions. The view allows an appreciation of the large scale of the characteristic Borders landscape with its rolling hills and valleys, together with the extensive forested plateau, where the Proposed Development is located.</p> <p>At lower elevation, rectangular, managed grazing fields bordered by hedgerows are fringed by forest blocks, with areas that have been felled. Extensive forestry sweeps through the background, flanking the distant ridgeline that frames the view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by walkers and visitors to this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is located within the Teviot Valleys Special Landscape Area, a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is designated for its cultural heritage importance and does allow panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. It also forms part of a locally promoted walking route. Its value is assessed as high.	Walkers and visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, views are mainly limited to the upper parts of turbine towers, hubs and blades, with the intervening rolling landform screening the lower parts of towers and all other associated infrastructure from view.</p>				

The turbines would be positioned through the central part of the view, beyond the farmed foreground landscape. All the turbine towers and hubs would be backclothed against the distant high ground that forms the backdrop to the view, with only the blades of turbines at the right-hand edge of the group extending above the skyline.

The proposed turbines occupy a moderate lateral extent of the view, set behind the intervening rolling landform. This limits their influence on the receiving landscape and due to their increased distance, they appear as medium sized elements that do not conflict with the scale of the landscape.

During daylight hours this introduces a medium high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots that would be experienced at increased distance. Turbine lighting would extend across the full extent of the array when viewed from this location

The lights of turbines T1 and T3 would appear slightly smaller due to their position in the left-hand part of the grouping and further from the viewpoint. All of the turbine lights would be seen backclothed against the landform that provides the backdrop to the view. Lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present.

This would result in a medium magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **moderate major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate** effect during the hours of darkness that is also considered **significant**.

## 2.6 Viewpoint 6 – B6357 Vantage Point

Baseline				
Grid reference	359170	603557	Elevation (m AOD)	353 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T12	Direction to Proposed Development		Northeast
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 5i(ii) Southern Uplands Forest Covered Wauchope/ Newcastleton
Designations	None		Receptor	Visitors
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	5	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated to the immediate north of the forest car park off the B6357 and is situated approximately 2.2 km to the southwest of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The viewpoint allows broad, sweeping views in a northeasterly direction across the gently sloping forested plateau in which the Proposed Development is located. To the right of the view, the smooth, rounded ridge extending from Carter Bar frames this part of the view. To the north, there are long range views to distant, rounded and conical hills across pastoral farmland, dotted with shelterbelts.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's location within Wauchope Forest, coniferous woodland is the dominant land cover and it extends through the foreground and middleground, giving way to rough grassland and moorland at higher elevations.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of northeasterly views experienced by visitors to this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Visitors	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its particular scenic qualities and is located within a large-scale commercial forest. The location is identified on mapping as a vantage point, and it provides recreational opportunities in the form of wild camping. Its value is assessed as high.	Visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
All 13 turbines would be visible from this location in theory. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, views comprise parts of turbine towers, hubs and blades. However, the other ancillary project elements would be screened by the intervening forest plantation.				

The turbines would be positioned in the middleground on the gently sloping, forested plateau. The hubs of turbines T1 to T8 are positioned at or slightly below the horizon, with the hubs of turbines T9 to T13 appearing above the horizon.

The proposed turbines introduce large, new elements that occupy a moderate lateral extent of the view, that forms part of the wider available views that extend to the right of the frame. The turbines would be set within the large-scale forested plateau with its simple form, capable of accommodating the development without it diminishing its sense scale. Intervening vegetation at the left-hand edge of the frame screens actual visibility of turbine T9 from this point.

During daylight hours this introduces a high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible in theory during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots, extending across the full lateral extent of the array and would appear evenly spaced.

With the exception of turbine T3, all the remaining turbine lights would appear above the dark sky horizon, although Turbine 9 would be screened by existing vegetation to the north of the viewpoint. The aviation lights of turbines T11 and T12 would appear to be positioned higher in the dark sky due to their closer proximity to the viewpoint than the other lit turbines. This would result in these lights being slightly more prominent.

Lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present.

This would result in a high magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **major effect** that is considered **significant** during both daylight hours and hours of darkness.



## 2.7 Viewpoint 7 – Knox Knowe

Baseline				
Grid reference	365468	602816	Elevation (m AOD)	490 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T1	Direction to Proposed Development		Northwest
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 5i(ii) Southern Uplands Forest Covered Wauchope/ Newcastleton
Designations	None		Receptor	Walkers
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	5	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated to the southeast of the Proposed Development on the ridge of high ground that sweeps around to the south and west of the site.</p> <p>The viewpoint allows broad, sweeping views in a northwesterly direction over the gently sloping, forested plateau on which the Proposed Development is located. Views extend across the pastoral farmland beyond, towards Rubers Law and to more distant conical hills.</p> <p>The operational Langhope Rig Wind Farm is situated within the left-hand part of the frame and is located approximately 29 km to the northwest of the viewpoint.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of northwesterly views experienced by walkers visiting this remote upland location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its particular scenic qualities, although the Northumberland Dark Sky Park extends to the south of the viewpoint. The location is not a recognised viewpoint and is difficult to access. Its value is assessed as high.	Visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in northwesterly views at relatively close range. Although it is noted there are long range views towards Langhope Rig Wind Farm.		High
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location in theory. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, views comprise parts of turbine towers, hubs and blades of the majority of turbines. The hub of turbine T12 is screened by the sloping landform in the left-hand part of the frame, limiting views to its blades. Turbine T6 is also screened to a degree by the landform, with its hub and blades experienced above the topography.</p> <p>The turbines would be positioned in the middleground on the forested plateau that is screened to a degree by the immediate foreground landform. Due to the elevation of the viewpoint relative to the</p>				

Proposed Development, all of the turbines are backclothed against the landform to the northwest of the site.

The proposed turbines introduce large, new elements that occupy a moderate lateral extent of a much wider panoramic view that is available from this upland location. The turbines would be set within the large-scale forested plateau that extends below the viewpoint. They do not diminish the sense of openness and scale that is perceived from the viewpoint, nor conflict with views towards Rubers Law.

Some access tracks would also be visible. However, these would be relatively diminutive elements within the view given the distance from the viewpoint.

During daylight hours this introduces a high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible in theory during the hours of darkness. However, with reference to the wireline that accompanies the viewpoint, the hub of turbine T12, in the left-hand part of the frame is screened by the foreground landform.

The remaining lights would appear as small red dots, extending across the full lateral extent of the wind farm and would be broadly evenly spaced and appear at a relatively consistent height, with the light of turbine T9 appearing slightly smaller due to it being sited furthest from the viewpoint.

The turbine lights would be experienced against the background landform and would be introduced into a part of the view where there are no other lights currently present.

This would result in a medium high magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate major effect** that is considered **significant** during the hours of darkness.

## 2.8 Viewpoint 8 - A6088, north-west of Carter Bar

Baseline				
Grid reference	367569	607371	Elevation (m AOD)	330 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T3	Direction to Proposed Development		Southwest
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 5i(ii) Southern Uplands Forest Covered Wauchope/ Newcastleton
Designations	At southern edge of Cheviot Hills SLA		Receptor	Road users
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated to the northeast of the Proposed Development along the A6088 as it heads west from its junction with the A68 near Carter Bar. The viewpoint allows broad, sweeping views in a westerly direction over the large-scale, low-lying forested plateau that is fringed to its south by the ridgeline that extends west from Carter Bar.</p> <p>The view comprises juvenile roadside tree planting, managed fields used for grazing set slightly below the elevation of the road but predominantly consists of extensive forest plantations, with their simple form and colour. Pastoral farmland extends beyond the forest plantation in the right-hand part of the frame and comprises rolling hills, interspersed with shelterbelts.</p> <p>The operational Langhope Rig Wind Farm is situated towards the right-hand edge of the frame, while the consented Pines Burn Wind Farm and the proposed Teviot Wind Farm that is currently in planning, would be situated within the central part of the view beyond the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southwesterly views experienced by road users travelling along the A6088.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its particular scenic qualities, although the Cheviot Hills Special Landscape Area borders the northeast edge of the road, in the opposite direction from the Proposed Development. Its value is assessed as medium.	<p>Users of main routes are generally considered to be less susceptible, although in this instance this is tempered slightly due to the rural location, and its proximity to Carter Bar.</p> <p>Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.</p>		Medium
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, views comprise turbine towers, hubs and blades of all of the proposed turbines. They would be positioned in the middleground on the forested plateau that sits at a slightly lower elevation than the road.</p>				

The proposed turbines introduce medium to large scale, new elements that occupy a moderate lateral extent of the sweeping view that is available at this point. The turbines would be set within the large-scale forested plateau that extends below the viewpoint and the majority of their hubs would be positioned at or just below the horizon, with the hubs of turbines T9, T10 and T11 extending above the skyline. The associated ground project elements would be largely screened by the intervening forest plantation.

During daylight hours this introduces a medium high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible in theory during the hours of darkness. With reference to the wireline that accompanies the viewpoint, the lights of turbines T1 and T3 would appear slightly more prominent, due to being sited in closer proximity to the viewpoint, while the lights of the remaining turbines would be slightly less prominent due to them being sited further from the viewpoint.

The lights would appear as small red dots, extending across the full lateral extent of the wind farm and would be broadly evenly spaced and appear at a relatively consistent height, with the lights of turbines T1 and T3 appearing slightly more prominent.

The turbine lights would be experienced above the dark sky horizon, with the exception of turbine T12, which would be sited below the horizon. Turbine lighting would be introduced into a part of the view where there are no other lights currently present.

This would result in a medium magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **moderate** effect that is considered **significant** during both daylight hours and the hours of darkness.

## 2.9 Viewpoint 9 – Carter Bar (eastern vantage point)

Baseline				
Grid reference	369798	606857	Elevation (m AOD)	417 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T3	Direction to Proposed Development		Southwest
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 6a Moorland Forestry Mosaic – Kielder Water, Wark and Reddesdale Forest (Northumberland National Park)
Designations	Northumberland National Park		Receptor	Visitors
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	0	Lit Turbines visible	-	
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated at the Carter Bar Vantage Point, on the eastern side of the A68, adjacent to the southbound carriageway. The viewpoint marks the border between Scotland and England and is a popular stop off point for tourists and people travelling along the A68, that allows panoramic views north across the Scottish Borders and the Cheviots. The viewpoint is taken from close to the interpretation board located at the northern end of the parking area.</p> <p>The A68 and the western vantage point are the dominant visual components in the foreground of the view in the left-hand part of the frame. These are backed by the sloping landform of Carter Bar that slopes down towards the centre of the frame. This landform is fringed with juvenile conifer trees and mixed deciduous amenity tree planting.</p> <p>Through the central and right-hand parts of the frame, views extend north across the rolling foothills of the Cheviots, which comprise rounded hills covered with a mix of rough grassland and extensive swathes of forestry plantations. These form the principal focus for the view.</p> <p>The operational Langhope Rig Wind Farm is situated within the right-hand part of the frame in the far distance.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of northerly views experienced by people visiting this recognised vantage point.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is located on the boundary of the Northumberland National Park. It is a popular visitor location that attracts people who visit to appreciate the scenic quality of the views across the Scottish Borders. It is also mapped as viewpoint. Its value is assessed as very high.	Visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to changes that could alter the quality of the available views from this recognised viewpoint.		Very high

### Magnitude of Change during daylight hours

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, only three of the 13 turbines would be visible in theory and would be limited to the upper tips of turbines T7, T8 and T9, with the remaining parts of the Proposed Development entirely screened from view by the sloping landform of Carter Bar.

Actual visibility of these tips will be screened existing vegetation along the sloping landform of Carter Bar, such that no change to the view will be perceived.

In the event that this vegetation was removed, receptors would experience no greater than a very low magnitude of change during daylight hours.

### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, there is no predicted visibility of turbine lighting from this viewpoint location.

This would result in a very low magnitude of change.

### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience no effects during daylight or the hours darkness.

Should vegetation on the sloping hillside to the south of the viewpoint be removed, during daylight hours, receptors would experience no greater than **minor/no effect** that is considered **not significant** and during the hours of darkness, receptors would experience **no effects**.

## 2.10 Viewpoint 10 – Pike Fell

Baseline				
Grid reference	353489	606367	Elevation (m AOD)	399 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T9	Direction to Proposed Development		East
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 4 (iii) – Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Cauldcleuch Head Group - Scottish Borders
Designations	-		Receptor	Walkers
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	0	Lit Turbines visible		-
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located at Pike Fell which is approximately 7.1 km to the west of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's elevated location, it allows extensive, panoramic views in all directions, allowing an appreciation of the large scale of the landscape with its rolling hills and valleys, together with the extensive forested plateau, where the Proposed Development is located.</p> <p>At lower elevations, the pastoral landscape is interspersed with shelterbelts and grazing fields. Extensive areas of forest plantation extend through the middleground, with areas that have been felled. The distant high ground provides the backdrop to the view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view, although the consented Pines Burn Wind Farm will be situated within the immediate foreground once constructed. This is considered separately within the cumulative assessment.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of easterly views experienced by walkers to this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. However, it does allow panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. Its value is assessed as medium.	Visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to changes that could alter the quality of the available views.		High
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, the hubs and blades of all turbines would be visible, along with parts of their towers.</p> <p>This change would be experienced at approximately 7.1 km distance. The proposed turbines occupy a small to moderate lateral extent of the view and would be positioned within the gently rolling and smooth, rounded landform that extends through the middleground, with all turbines backclothed against the terrain beyond.</p>				

Due to the increased distance from the viewpoint, the turbines appear as small-scale elements, that do not conflict with the scale of the large landscape and appear more recessive within the view.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces no greater than a low magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red lights, that would be seen at distance. The lights of turbines T9 and T11 would appear slightly higher than the other lit turbines, which sit at a slightly lower elevation. However, all turbine lights would be seen against the background landform.

Turbine lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present. This would result in a low to very low magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience no greater than **minor moderate effects** that are considered **not significant** during daylight hours.

During the hours of darkness, receptors would experience **minor effects** that are considered **not significant**.



## 2.11 Viewpoint 11 – Footpath and Minor Local Road, Chester Brae

Baseline				
Grid reference	363279	610785	Elevation (m AOD)	258 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T7	Direction to Proposed Development		South southwest
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 11(i) Grassland with Hills – Bonchester/ Dunion
Designations	At southern edge of Teviot Valleys SLA		Receptor	Residential Road users
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated on Chesters Brae, towards the eastern edge of the settlement of Chesters alongside the minor road that leads towards Camptown. It allows open views in a southerly direction over the gently rolling, pastoral farmland that comprises grazing fields interspersed with small shelterbelt woodland blocks and dotted with occasional farms nestled within the rolling farmland. Views extend towards the ridge of high ground that provides the backdrop to the view. There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residents in properties along Chesters Brae and road users travelling along the minor road.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities and it is not a promoted tourist route. It is not a recognised for its scenic views, although it is acknowledged that pleasant views are available across the surrounding landscape. Its value is assessed as low medium.	Residents in this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views from the settlement and in a part of the landscape where there are no other wind farms consented or operational wind farms.		High
Road users		Users of minor roads are generally considered to be moderately susceptible to change. Road users travelling along this route are assessed as having medium susceptibility.		Medium
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>The blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all 13 turbines would be visible from the viewpoint. They would be positioned beyond the gently rolling and smooth rounded landform that extends through the middleground of the view, with turbines T1 to T4 backclothed against the ridge of high ground that forms the more distant backdrop to southerly views. This change would be experienced</p>				

at a distance of approximately 3.9 km and would occur at a broadly perpendicular angle to the orientation of the route and properties along Chesters Brae, with the full lateral extent of the array visible.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium to large lateral extent of the view, setback beyond the intermediate landform and as such do not cross over into the foreground rolling farmland landscape.

The turbines introduce large scale elements into the view, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the upland landscape. Although the hubs of some turbines extend above the skyline, they do not extend above the highest point of the background landform that can be seen in the left-hand part of the frame.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces a high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots. The lights of turbines T1 and T3 would be seen against the upland horizon in the left-hand part of the view, while the remaining lit turbines (Turbines T8, T9, T11 and T12) would appear within the right-hand part of the view, above the gently rolling horizon. They would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present, apart from the occasional lights of vehicles travelling along the A6088.

This would result in a medium high magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a **moderate effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **minor moderate** effect during the hours of darkness that is assessed as **not significant**.

Residential receptors would experience **major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate major** effect during the hours of darkness that is considered **significant**.

## 2.12 Viewpoint 12 – Rubers Law

Baseline				
Grid reference	358048	615547	Elevation (m AOD)	414 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T9	Direction to Proposed Development		Southeast
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 11(ii) Grassland with Hills – Rubers Law
Designations	Teviot Valleys SLA		Receptor	Walkers
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located at the summit of the prominent regional landmark, Rubers Law and is situated approximately 9 km from the Proposed Development</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's elevated location, it allows extensive, panoramic views in all directions. The view allows an appreciation of the large scale, characteristic Borders landscape, together with the extensive forested plateau, where the Proposed Development is located.</p> <p>At lower elevations, rectangular, managed grazing fields bordered by hedgerows are fringed by forest blocks. Extensive forestry sweeps through the background, flanking the distant ridgeline that frames the view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by walkers and visitors to this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is located within the Teviot Valleys SLA, a locally designated landscape. The location is also designated for its cultural heritage importance. It also a popular walking destination, and provides a prominent landmark hill, within the surrounding landscape with its craggy summit. Its value is assessed as high.	Walkers and visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southeasterly views and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms, although the consented Pines Burn Wind Farm can be seen at a similar distance in a different part of the view.		High
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, the hubs and blades of all turbines would be visible, along with parts of their towers. This change would be experienced at approximately 9 km distance. The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view and would be positioned beyond the gently rolling and smooth rounded landform that extends through the middleground, with all turbines backclothed against the terrain beyond.</p>				

Due to the increased distance from the viewpoint, the turbines appear as small-scale elements, that do not conflict with the scale of the landscape and appear more recessive within the view. During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces no greater than a medium magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red lights, that would be seen at distance. The lights of turbines T1, T3 and T12 would appear slightly lower than the other lit turbines, which sit at a slightly higher. However, all turbine lights would be seen against the background landform.

Turbine lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present, apart from the lights of properties in the valley.

This would result in a low to very low magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience no greater than a **minor moderate effect** that is considered **not significant** during daylight hours and a **minor** effect during the hours of darkness that is also considered **not significant**.

## 2.13 Viewpoint 13 - A6088 Approach to Bonchester Bridge

Baseline			
Grid reference	355994	612670	Elevation (m AOD) 251 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T9	Direction to Proposed Development	Southeast
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type	LCT 11(ii) Grassland with Hills – Rubers Law
Designations	Southern end of Teviot Valleys SLA	Receptor	Road users
Visible Aviation Lighting			
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible	T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View			
<p>The viewpoint is located adjacent to the A6088 as the road descends eastwards towards Bonchester Bridge and is located at the roadside layby to the south of Rubers Law. It allows open views in an easterly direction over a wide, elevated grassland plateau, towards the rounded low hills in the middle ground that restrict some views towards the forest plateau beyond, with the more distant elevated ridge providing the backdrop to views.</p> <p>Land cover through the foreground and middleground comprises rough grassland and moorland, with managed grassland fields and shelterbelts to the north, wrapping around the foot of Rubers Law and over the domed low hills in the middleground. Beyond, there are views towards the large forest plantation where the Proposed Development is located.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of easterly views experienced by road users travelling along this route.</p>			
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is on the southern edge of the Teviot Valleys SLA and close to the regionally prominent landmark hill, Rubers Law. The route is not a promoted tourist route but connects Hawick with Carter bar. Its value is assessed as medium.	Users of main routes are generally considered to be less susceptible, although in this instance the route passes through the southern edge of the SLA. Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.	Medium
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours			
<p>From this location 12 turbines would be visible, although turbine T5 is unlikely to be visible in practice. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, views of turbines T1-4, T7 and T8 are limited to views of their hubs and blades. Views of turbines in the right-hand part of the array (turbines T9 to T12) are limited to the very upper parts of towers, hubs and blades.</p> <p>This change would be experienced at approximately 7.4 km distance. The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view and would be positioned beyond the rounded landform.</p>			

This landform partially screens some of the turbines, with the hubs of all turbines being situated at or below the distant ridge that provides background to the view.

Due to the increased distance from the viewpoint, the turbines appear as small-scale, relatively diminutive elements within the wider view.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces no greater than a low magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red lights, that would be seen at distance. The lights of turbines 1 and 8 would be partially obscured by the intervening landform, while the light of turbine T3 would be seen at the left-hand edge of the array from this view angle.

The lights of turbines T9, T11 and T12 would appear at the right-hand edge of the wind farm, with the light of turbine T12 sitting below the level of turbines T9 and T11, which is positioned at the edge of the array. However, all turbine lights would be backclothed against the distant landform.

Turbine lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present, apart from the lights of occasional vehicles travelling along the road.

This would result in a low to very low magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience no greater than a **minor moderate to minor effect** that is considered **not significant** during daylight hours and a **minor** effect during the hours of darkness that is also considered **not significant**.

## 2.14 Viewpoint 14 – Wolfelee Hill

Baseline				
Grid reference	359717	608474	Elevation (m AOD)	390 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T9	Direction to Proposed Development		Southeast
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 5i(ii) Southern Uplands Forest Covered Wauchope/ Newcastleton
Designations	-		Receptor	Walkers
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located at Wolfelee Hill which is situated approximately 1.8 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's hilltop location, it allows extensive views in all directions, allowing an appreciation of the broad scale of the landscape with its rolling hills, together with the extensive forested plateau, where the Proposed Development is located, which is seen in the immediate middleground below the foreground hilltop.</p> <p>At lower elevations, the expansive, gently undulating pastoral landscape is interspersed with shelterbelts and predominantly comprises grassland fields. Extensive areas of forest plantation extend through the middleground, with areas that have been felled and newly planted areas, with views of forest tracks leading through the plantations. The distant ridge of high ground extending west from Carter Bar provides the backdrop to the view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southeasterly views experienced by walkers visiting this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. However, it does allow panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. Its value is assessed as medium.	Walkers are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southeasterly views and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		Medium high
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, the towers, hubs and blades of all turbines would be visible.</p> <p>Due to the proximity of the viewpoint and its elevation, it allows views down to the forested plateau. As such some ground-level components would be visible, as well as keyhole felled areas around turbines bases.</p> <p>This change would occur in relative proximity to the viewpoint and in the immediate middleground. Despite their close proximity, the proposed turbines occupy a moderate lateral extent of the view, in</p>				

one segment of the view. They would be positioned within the forested plateau which would serve to screen some of the ground-level components. They would be seen as medium to large new elements within the view, with none of the hubs extending above the ridge of high ground that provides the backdrop to the view. Some turbine access tracks, crane hardstandings and borrow pits would also be visible where areas of felled forest allow views.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces a high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots, that would be seen in relatively close proximity (c. 1.8 km). The lights of turbines T1 and T3 would appear slightly more setback and smaller, compared to the lights of turbines T8, T9, T11 and T12 due to their closer proximity to the viewpoint.

None of the turbine lights would be seen above the dark sky horizon, with all lights seen against the background landform.

Lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present.

This would result in a medium high magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **major effect** that is considered **significant** during daylight hours and a **moderate major** effect during the hours of darkness that is also considered **significant**.



## 2.15 Viewpoint 18 - Borders Abbey Way, Black Law

Baseline				
Grid reference	361964	618201	Elevation (m AOD)	334 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T8	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 11(i) Grassland with Hills – Bonchester/ Dunion
Designations	Teviot Valleys SLA		Receptor	Walkers
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located at Black Law on the Borders Abbey Way, one of Scotland's Great Trails and is approximately 10.1 km to the north of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's elevated location, it allows extensive panoramic views in all directions, allowing long range views across rolling hills, extensive lowland grasslands interspersed with shelterbelts, together with large, forested areas. Rubers Law provides a prominent focal point in the middleground, with its distinctive craggy summit.</p> <p>The backdrop to the view is provided by distant rounded and conical hills that provide foci to the view. Blacklaw telecoms mast and the disused Blacklaw Quarry are situated behind the viewpoint. There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view. However, the consented Pines Burn Wind Farm and the in-planning Teviot Wind Farm would be situated towards the right-hand edge of the view. These are considered separately in the cumulative assessment.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by walkers visiting this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is located within the Teviot Valleys SLA and is located on the Borders Abbeys Way long distance walking route. Its value is assessed as high.	Walkers are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the view where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>All 13 turbines would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, the hubs and blades of all turbines would be visible, along with parts of their towers. This change would be experienced at approximately 11 km distance. The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view and would be positioned within the gently rolling and smooth rounded landform that extends through the middleground. With the exception of turbines T9, T10 and T11, the turbines would be backclothed against the terrain beyond. Although turbines T9, T10 and T11 extend slightly above the background landform, they do not extend above the highest point of the nearby terrain.</p>				

Due to the increased distance from the viewpoint, the turbines appear as small-scale elements, that do not conflict with the scale of the landscape and appear more recessive within the view. During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces no greater than a low magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small, very small red dots, that would be seen at considerable distance.

The lights of turbines T1, T3 and T8 would appear slightly lower and set down against the background landform, compared to the lights of turbines T9, T11 and T12 which would be seen at, or just slightly above the dark sky horizon.

Lighting would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present.

Due to the distance, this would result in no greater than a very low magnitude of change.

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **minor moderate effect** that is considered **not significant** during daylight hours and no greater than a **minor effect** during the hours of darkness that is also considered **not significant**.

## 2.16 Viewpoint 19 – Wheel Causeway

Baseline				
Grid reference	361280	601935	Elevation (m AOD)	415 m AOD
Nearest turbine	T12	Direction to Proposed Development		North
LPA	Scottish Borders	Landscape Character Type		LCT 5i(ii) Southern Uplands Forest Covered Wauchope/ Newcastleton
Designations	None		Receptor	Walkers/People involved in recreation
Visible Aviation Lighting				
Number of Lit Turbines Visible	6	Lit Turbines visible		T1, T3, T8, T9, T11, T12
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated approximately 3.4 km to the south of the site on Wheel Causeway within Wauchope Forest. The route is mapped as a right of way and provides opportunities for recreation. It allows partially open views in a northerly direction towards the site of the Proposed Development. Views are dominated by the extensive forest plantation through the fore and middleground. This comprises clear felled areas and areas of new and maturing trees.</p> <p>Beyond the forestry plantation there are views over the gently rolling, pastoral farmland that comprises managed grassland interspersed with small shelterbelt woodland blocks. Views extend towards the ridge of high ground that frames the right-hand edge of the frame and across the sloping plateau where the development is proposed.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by walkers and people using the track for recreation.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities and is located within a commercial forest. It is not located on a promoted tourist route, although it is identified as a right of way and provides opportunities of recreation. Part of the route is also designated for its cultural heritage importance. Overall, its value is assessed as medium.	Walkers are generally considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in northerly views at relatively close range. However, the location of the route within a heavily modified landscape and commercial forest reduces their susceptibility to medium.		Medium
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
The blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all 13 turbines would be visible from the viewpoint. They would be positioned within the middleground, on the sloping forested plateau.				

Turbines T3 to T8 would be backclothed against the landform beyond the site, while the remaining turbines would be positioned at, or slightly above the horizon.

The proposed turbines occupy a large lateral extent of the view and introduce large scale elements into the view, where no other such elements are currently present. Although the hubs of some turbines extend above the skyline, they do not extend above the highest point of the background landform that can be seen in the right-hand part of the frame.

During daylight hours the Proposed Development introduces a high magnitude of change.

#### Magnitude of Change during hours of darkness

With reference to the lit turbine ZTV at Figure 6.8, up to all six of the proposed lit turbines would be visible at this point during the hours of darkness. The lights would appear as small red dots that would be experienced in close proximity.

The lights of turbines T3, T8 and T12 would be seen against the terrain beyond the site, while the remaining lit turbines (Turbines T1, T9, T11 and T12) would appear within the left-hand part of the view, at or just above the horizon. They would be added in a part of the view where no other lights are currently present.

This would result in a medium high magnitude of change. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a **moderate effect** that is considered **significant** during both daylight hours and the hours of darkness.